

# **FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program: 2004 Requests for Proposals**

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Stewardship Program is intended to help strengthen industry compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. These grants will provide support for education, training, monitoring, demonstrations or studies that promote stewardship of pesticide safety rules, regulations and procedures. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for projects which are unique and innovative, and that address the requirements of the Federal WPS and related methods of protecting agricultural workers from pesticide exposure within a specific commodity, group of commodities or geographic area. In this context, “stewardship” refers to the concept of responsible management and the development of institutions, information, and strategies to assure protection of people into the future.

Possible approaches to promoting stewardship of WPS could include, but are not limited to, a combination field level compliance assistance, pesticide safety training, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), development and/or dissemination of educational materials, self-assessments, promotion of model training programs, etc. Topics could range from general requirements of the WPS to specific topics such as early entry requirements, potential acute or chronic affects of pesticide exposure (including residue exposure), potential health effects of commonly used pesticides, use of engineering controls to minimize exposure, or others.

This is a new Region 9 grant program for Fiscal year 2004 only. Recipients of 2004 funding will have up to two years to complete the project.

## **Background on the WPS**

EPA's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The WPS offers protections to over three and a half million people who work with pesticides at over 560,000 workplaces nationwide. The WPS contains requirements for pesticide safety training, notification of pesticide applications, use of personal protective equipment, restricted entry intervals following pesticide application, decontamination supplies, and emergency medical assistance.

In 2000, USEPA began a national assessment of the worker protection program to review program implementation and enforcement and identify ways to make these activities more effective. EPA Region 9, States, Tribes, and numerous organizations in this region participated in the National WPS Assessment and continue to work on efforts to strengthen implementation of the WPS. This grant program is part of Region 9's continuing commitment to improving pesticide worker safety programs.

For more background information on the WPS or the National WPS Assessment Project, visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/workers.html>

## **II. Award Information**

EPA Region 9 Pesticide Program intends to award an estimated \$100,000 for grant awards ranging in size from \$30,000 up to \$50,000 per project. From the proposals received, EPA estimates that 2 to 3 projects may be selected. Costs incurred prior to the grant award will not be reimbursed.

For a complete list of EPA funding opportunities, please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.html> or <http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/index.html>

## **III. Eligibility Information**

State agencies, Tribes, local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations (including not-for-profit commodity groups or farmers' groups) are eligible to submit proposals for the WPS Stewardship grant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20. For-profit organizations are not eligible.

The projects must be located in EPA Region 9, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii or in the Pacific Trust Islands. Both new and existing projects will be considered. No matching funds are required, however applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage funds from other sources. Applicants may provide a non-federal cash or in-kind match to indicate the organization's commitment to completing the project.

Please note: Research is ineligible for funding as well as other ineligible costs outlined in 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31. Funding for selected projects will be available September 2004. Most surveys conducted using Federal grant funds must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Funding may be used for up to two years from the time that the grant is awarded.

## **IV. Proposal Format and Submission Information**

Proposals are limited to five pages. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the proposal.

The following format should be used for all proposals:

1. Summary (maximum one page): Include name of project, point of contact (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address), and the amount of federal funding requested. Note whether it is continuation of an ongoing project, a previously EPA funded project or a new project (if previously funded by EPA, provide the number and status of the current grant or cooperative agreement).
2. Project description and Workplan (maximum three pages): This section should include a workplan that is realistic and appropriate to achieving identified objectives within the proposed budget. Include a brief background on the main issues, specific objectives, major activities, where the project will take place, and expected outcomes and deliverables. This section should also include a discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties, if applicable (see Section V for further discussion).

3. Performance measures. The workplan should include performance measures that demonstrate the progress or results of the project (see Section V for further discussion).
4. Budget (maximum one page). Submit a general budget proposed to support project activities. Include information on other funding sources, if any.

**Please send a hard copy of the proposal and an electronic version (on disc or email) to:**

Katy Wilcoxon, WPS Coordinator  
Pesticide Program  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-5)  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**All proposals must be postmarked by May 21, 2004. *Proposals postmarked after this date will not be reviewed.***

## **V. Proposal Review and Selection Criteria**

EPA will award WPS Stewardship grants on a competitive basis. All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Attainment of goals: How well the proposed project furthers the goal of the WPS to reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The importance of the project in relation to a particular commodity, group of commodities or geographic region. Is there a clearly defined need, such as high exposure potential because of labor demands or pesticides used, or documented illnesses or known compliance issues within the targeted area or commodity group.
2. Clearly stated objectives and activities: How well the proposal links the goals/objectives and activities. Includes activities that will lead to learning or adoption of new practices by the regulated community.
3. Participation of the regulated community: Access to the regulated community (growers, Farm Labor Contractors, commercial pesticide applicators, or other agricultural employers) will be critical to the successful project. Therefore, proposals should include expected partnerships and letters or other indication of support to assist reviewers in determining strength of partnership and extent of participation of regulated community.
4. Performance measures: Includes a clear explanation of how the effectiveness of the project will be evaluated. Performance measures may be linked to improvements in WPS compliance, pesticide illness or injury/worker safety record, implementation of improved worker safety practices or other methods, and may include environmental monitoring, surveys or other measures.
5. Special emphasis will be on projects that take place within the US/Mexico Border Region, proposals submitted by eligible applicants with demonstrated access to people responsible for

compliance with the worker safety regulations, and proposals that maximize resources for ‘on-the-ground’ activities over administrative costs.

The criteria above will have essentially equal weight, except for Special Emphasis areas which will be given more weight. Final selection will be made by the Associate Director for Agriculture, Cross Media Division, EPA Region 9. Applicants will be notified of decisions by early June 2004.

## **VI. Award Administration**

Proposals that are selected for funding will be requested to submit a formal application for Federal funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the work plan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of FIFRA Cooperative Agreements: 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35, subparts A and B (for States, local governments, and interstate agencies).

**Reporting requirements:** The selected grant recipients will be asked to complete a midyear progress report and a final report at the end of the grant period. Reports should describe project activities, status of the objective and activities in the workplan, and a statement of expenses. Quarterly Financial Status Reports will also be required. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

**Disputes:** Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

**Confidentiality:** Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

**Disclaimer:** EPA Reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

## **VII. Agency Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

Katy Wilcoxon

WPS Coordinator

Pesticide Program

USEPA Region 9

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